

Date: March 8, 2017

To: Chair Kyle Hoffman and House Agriculture Committee

From: Erik Sartorius

Re: Neutral Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 60

Chairman Hoffman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity for the League of Kansas Municipalities on behalf of its member cities to provide neutral testimony on Senate Bill 60. As introduced, this legislation extended the sunset for several fees and gave the Secretary of Agriculture some flexibility to charge fees for administering programs.

However, the Senate Agriculture Committee made several changes to the original bill. Of these changes, we particularly wanted to bring to the attention of this committee a reduction in the amount of funds transferred to the State Water Plan. (See Sect. 1, page 2, lines 24-33.) Our understanding is that this change in law would see the State Water Plan lose approximately \$127,000 annually. As the fiscal note for this bill has not been updated to reflect the Senate's changes, you may wish to confirm the effects of SB 60 as amended.

As you know, Governor Brownback named a Blue Ribbon Water Funding Task Force to consider how to fund initiatives identified in the Water Vision process. Overall consensus from the task force meetings was that the State Water Plan needed more funding, not less. The League and several other organizations have noted throughout this session that the legislature should work to restore the statutorily-required \$6 million State General Fund and \$2 million Economic Development Initiative Fund appropriations.

The fiscal situation of the state is challenging, and restored funding for the State Water Plan may not be possible. Under these conditions, we respectfully ask that the committee consider carefully the provisions in SB 60 that would reduce funding for the State Water Plan.